Purchase of aircrafts by AI

4967. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airbus will deliver three A 310s, 200-seater planes to Air India in the month of April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Air India has already five A 310s in its fleet;

(c) if so, what will be the total cost per aircraft; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful to Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) At present Air India has in all thirteen A310-300 aircraft. Of these 8 are aircraft owned by Air India and the remaining 5 are taken on dry lease for 3 years lease term. As a part of Air India's Fleet Rationalisation Plan, additional three A310-300 aircraft are proposed to be dry leased which are likely to be delivered during the year 2002. As the bids received are under evaluation, no cost can be furnished at present. With this induction, Air India will be able to phase out its old aircraft and improve its product on various sectors.

Air service from Guwahati to Bangkok

4968. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when Guwahati-Bangkok flight by Air India is likely to start;

(b) what will be the frequency of this service;

(c) the other details in this regard; and

(d) whether Government expect a boost to international tourism by starting this service?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Effective from 04 April 2002, Air India has started weekly Guwahati-Bangkok flight. This is likely to give boost to tourism between North East region of the country and South East Asia.

Unemployed Pilots

4969. SHRI B .J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trained pilots in the country who are presently unemployed;